



Population, Refugees, and Migration

U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE

Fact Sheet: Strategy for Supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex (LGBTQI+) Persons

“LGBTQI+ persons should have equal access to protection, assistance, and solutions in global humanitarian response.”

- Julieta Valls Noyes, Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration

In 2021, the State Department’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) launched a two-year strategy to implement the 2021 Presidential Memorandum on Advancing the Human Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex Persons Around the World. Through this strategy, PRM seeks to improve assistance for LGBTQI+ refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), conflict victims, stateless persons, and vulnerable migrants. **Here are some ways PRM is redoubling its efforts under this strategy:**

Key New Initiatives

- Establishing programs to increase nongovernmental organizations’ (NGOs) referrals of LGBTQI+ and other refugees to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) and support LGBTQI+ resettlement in the United States through a new private sponsorship program launched in 2022.
- Promoting increased use of Priority 1 refugee referrals from U.S. Embassies abroad to identify and expedite resettlement of highly vulnerable LGBTQI+ persons with urgent protection needs.
- Developing methods to measure success in resettling LGBTQI+ refugees in the United States, while safeguarding refugee privacy.
- Expanding support under PRM’s Julia Taft Refugee Fund for local groups serving forcibly displaced LGBTQI+ persons, including in countries of asylum.
- Partnering with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, to enhance training capacity for staff and partners on the specific protection needs of forcibly displaced LGBTQI+ persons and support the critical work of small, frontline civil society actors protecting forcibly displaced LGBTQI+ persons in refugee-hosting communities.
- Soliciting insights and recommendations through discussions with LGBTQI+ civil society to meet the protection and assistance needs of LGBTQI+ persons experiencing forced displacement.
- Advocating systematically with multilateral and non-governmental partners on LGBTQI+ refugee and forced displacement issues.

Ongoing LGBTQI+ Assistance

PRM's new initiatives enhance and reinforce the life-saving support PRM and its partners continue to provide to forcibly displaced LGBTQI+ persons in countries around the world. **Here are some examples of PRM’s ongoing support:**

- Engaging directly with LGBTQI+ communities to map services and community support and facilitate referrals in refugee-hosting countries.

- Funding safe housing, food, improved security, and psychosocial counseling to LGBTQI+ refugees, including those experiencing violence or harassment.
- Supporting advocacy and training for governments to assess asylum requests, uphold non-refoulement obligations, and accelerate resettlement processing, including for LGBTQI+ refugees.
- Financing case management, legal, and medical assistance, family support, child protection, emergency cash assistance, and life skills training.
- Funding NGOs in refugee-hosting communities to expand emergency shelter support for at-risk LGBTQI+ persons and train service providers on LGBTQI+ protection.
- Convening stakeholders to identify ways to improve access, protections, and economic inclusion for forcibly displaced LGBTQI+ persons in specific contexts.

For more information on PRM's LGBTQI+ assistance, please follow PRM on social media at @StatePRM and view the U.S. Government One-Year Interagency Report on Implementation of the Presidential Memorandum on Advancing the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Persons Around the World.